

In the claims:

1 – 53 (Cancelled)

54. (new) A method of generating a plant having degenerated somatic tissue, the method comprising:

- (a) expressing streptavidin in cells of the somatic tissue of a plurality of plants thereby depleting biotin in said cells of the somatic tissue; and
- (b) selecting viable plants of said plurality of plants which exhibit degeneration of the somatic tissue as compared to similar plants not expressing said streptavidin thereby obtaining the plant having degenerated somatic tissue.

55. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the somatic tissue is vegetative tissue.

56. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said viable plants are male fertile.

57. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said viable plants selected exhibit degeneration of embryo tissue and whereas degeneration of said embryo tissue leads to seedless fruit.

58. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said viable plants selected exhibit degeneration of young leaf tissue and/or shoots and whereas degeneration of said young leaf tissue and/or shoots leads to plants having a reduced canopy size.

59. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said streptavidin is expressed in a DNA containing organelle of said cells of the somatic tissue.

60. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein said streptavidin includes a